

# THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

OR,

## Political, Commercial, and Literary Gazette.

VOL. IV.]

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 1819.

[No. 145.

*Published Daily, with the exception of Mondays,—and accompanied with occasional Engravings, illustrative of Antiquities, Science, and the Arts,—at a Subscription price of Eight Rupees per Month, and Half a Rupee for each Plate issued.*

### Address to Lord Hastings.

As a subject of the highest interest, we are persuaded, to every British individual in India, who at all participates in the common sympathy of his countrymen on public affairs, we hasten to lay before our readers a Document that will convey to them a feeling of pride and gratification.

On the morning of Saturday last, at ten o'clock, the principal Ladies and Gentlemen of the Settlement attended at the Government House to witness the presentation of the Address to the Governor General from the Inhabitants of Madras.

Major Blacker, of the Madras Army, had been charged with this honorable office, and on being introduced to the Noble Marquis, he said—

"I have the honor, my Lord, to be deputed by the European Inhabitants of Madras, to deliver an Address to your Lordship, which, with your Lordship's permission, I shall proceed to read."

TO HIS EXCELLENCE, THE MOST NOBLE,

FRANCIS, MARQUIS OF HASTINGS, K. G.

*Governor General of British India, &c. &c. &c.*

MY LORD,

We, the European inhabitants of Madras, deeply impressed with a sense of the benefits conferred on the British Empire in India, by the wisdom of your Lordship's Councils, beg leave respectfully to offer these our cordial congratulations, on the eminent success which has distinguished the measures of your Lordship's administration.

Though remote from the immediate scene of your Lordship's splendid achievements, we have, nevertheless, viewed with profound interest, the bold and honorable policy, by which they have been guided: and, when we contemplate the situation of British India, at the period your Lordship first assumed the reins of Government, we cannot forbear expressing our admiration of the wisdom and energy, which have conducted public affairs, to their present unparalleled state of prosperity. Your Lordship found our territory invaded on one hand, by a brave and hardy race of mountaineers—on the other, menaced by a lawless host of rapacious freebooters—while the Native independent Princes, evinced a disposition to take advantage of existing circumstances, and attempt measures hostile to our power.

The repeated aggressions of the Government of Nepaul, proceeded to an extent, that demanded the prompt application of the military resources of the state. To chastise an active and daring foe, intrenched in the fastnesses of a mountainous country, nearly impervious to the usual mode of warfare, was an arduous and doubtful enterprize. The contest was novel and interesting, and our troops encountered an enemy worthy of their prowess; but all obstacles vanished before your Lord-

ship's well concerted plans, and the struggle terminated in a treaty, glorious to the British arms.

The measures adopted by your Lordship, to repel the destructive incursions of those predatory hordes, who for so many years desolated a considerable portion of our possessions, proclaim the same talent and energy by which the war in Nepaul was conducted. The faithless policy pursued by some of our Allies, paved the way for great and beneficial changes. The late Marattah war ensued, and the perfidious conduct of the Native Princes met with merited punishment. It was a war of peculiar character, carried on against myriads of lawless and mercenary troops, whose wild discipline, and wide spreading desolation, in vain attempted to evade the influence of scientific movements. It became in a moment a war with states—but the heroes of Mahidpoor and Corygaum, Seetabuldy and Kirkee, gallantly asserted the British honour, and reaped unfading laurels. In the sieges of Hatrass and Asseerghur, conducted according to the strict rules of the art, success was secured by wise precautionary measures. Thus, the strength of the enemy, which lay in their mountains, their swarms of freebooters, and their fortresses, opposed no permanent resistance to the efforts of disciplined valour.

The state of licentious misrule, which produced those migratory banditti, no longer exists. Order is established, and vigour infused into every department of the state. The husbandman has joyfully resumed his labour, the great source of wealth and power, confidence revives, and trade flourishes with renewed activity. The peasant reaps the fruit of his useful toil; beneath the broad Aegis of British power, and blesses the arm which sustains that shield, under whose protection reposes the destiny of so many nations.

The most accomplished statesmen, while they provide for the defence and security of the realm, neglect not to cherish the arts of peace. To cultivate the province of the human mind—to call forth its latent powers and direct its energies to the improvement of society—to give a character and colour to the morals, intelligence, and spirit of the age,—has justly been considered essential to the welfare of the political system. On Agriculture, on Arts, and Commerce, liberal knowledge exerts a powerful and permanent influence—it adds to the resources of a people while it increases their happiness, and is intimately connected with the vital interests of mankind. Your Lordship's attention to this important branch of legislature, has not escaped our notice; and the numerous Institutions formed for the instruction of the native population, are illustrious monuments of British generosity, consecrated by the wisdom of your Lordship to the prosperity of the Empire.

While contemplating this important subject, it must have occurred, that to the attainment of truth, freedom of inquiry was essentially necessary; that public opinion was the strongest support of just Government; and that liberty of discussion served but to strengthen the hands of the executive. Such freedom of discussion was the gift of a liberal and enlightened

mind; an invaluable and unequivocal expression of those sentiments, evinced by the whole tenour of your Lordship's administration.

Such are a few of the most prominent features of a Government, whose character and conduct form a brilliant era in the history of our country. At this particular period, we are enabled to view the subject with peculiar advantage. We see clearly developed, the springs of that able and intricate policy, by which effects have been produced which must excite the admiration of posterity. We see the grand object of those operations which embraced so wide a field of action; and can duly appreciate the merit of those masterly combinations, by which such glorious success has been commanded. We now contemplate in tranquillity that extensive coalition, directed by a crafty and deceitful policy, which has disappeared before our banners. The reign of peace is restored, security and justice established, and a gradual system of improvement introduced into every department, conducive to the happiness of society. In a word, when we look back to the period under review, we cannot fail to acknowledge, that those stupendous projects, which led to such splendid and happy results, were conceived by a powerful and intrepid genius, carried into effect with consummate judgment, and concluded with unprecedented success.

We intreat your Lordship to accept of this imperfect expression of our sentiments, and of the assurance of our profound respect. That your Lordship may long continue to guide those councils, whose measures embellish the proud annals of our country's glory, is the earnest prayer of,

My Lord, &c. &c. &c.

(Here the Signatures.)

The Signatures to this Address were 384 in number. The names of the three Judges of the Presidency of Fort St. George stood at the head of the List, and the remainder included the names of all the most respectable and independent members of the Madras community.

On presenting the Address, after its being read, Major Blacker said—

"Allow me, my Lord, to express the high gratification and honor which I have derived in being made the channel of conveying this Address to your Lordship."

To this Address, the MARQUIS OF HASTINGS made the following reply:—

"I can have no reserve in manifesting the peculiar satisfaction with which I meet this expression of the favorable construction put upon my measures by the British Inhabitants of the Presidency of Fort St. George.

The gratification is an honest one. A desire to stand well in the opinion of one's countrymen must be a laudable anxiety, because its tendency is to produce endeavors beneficial to the community. It is true, public applause may be sometimes sought by oblique dexterity, and may be sometimes bestowed by giddy partiality: But, when it is established as an object of keen ambition, it will much oftener be the legitimate reward of the useful conduct to which it is the incentive. Hence I avow all my pleasure in receiving the testimony of kind estimation conveyed by this Address.

I speak thus of the approbation as far as it regards myself alone. I have a still more ardent sense of it where I am to participate it with those through whose admirable energy the advantageous results noticed in the Address were substantiated. The heroism of every branch of the Army is justly extolled; and the praise is to be understood as applicable not to valour only, but to every other quality that can pre-eminently distinguish the soldier.

It can scarcely have failed to be remarked how studiously I have borne any laboured panegyric, any high coloured description, respecting the achievements of the officers and men whom I had the happiness to command. I feared that any such phraseology would look like the compliments of ordinary usage, and might lead to an indistinct appreciation of the real merits; a common-place acknowledgement implies a commonplace claim. The Public, when left to judge for itself on the prominent facts before it, could not err in measurement of the recognition due; while the glow of my gratitude towards my fellow-soldiers ran no risk of being doubted: The tone of this Address proves the justness of my confidence: My gallant Comrades enjoy the full meed of their fame!

The time which elapsed before this Address was agitated has been fortunate. A sufficient term of trial has been exhibited to satisfy us whether what we have effected is solid.—How answers our experience?—From Cape Comorin to the Mountains of Tartary,—from the Indus to the Barrampooter,—all India displays deferential attention to the wishes of the British Government. Our power, undoubtedly, in a great degree sways this acquiescence with many: Yet it is pleasing to believe (as there is every reason to be assured) that trust in our moderation, and a conviction of the beneficial nature of our purposes, contribute far more generally to the efficiency of our influence.

The necessity which occurred for our reducing Asseerghur is no contradiction to this representation of tranquillity. That operation, in reality, belonged to the period of struggle. In the contemplation of measures requisite for securing the public quiet, we had included the surrender of a fortress which had for many years been the receptacle of every profligate outcast from neighbouring countries, the commander and garrison of which consequently identified themselves with every predatory gang, and would ever be ready to shelter the banditti, if not to co-operate with them.

The transfer of this fortress to us had been early stipulated by treaty, but considerations intervened to prevent our insisting on the fulfilment of the article. I will not regret having strained delicacy beyond convenient bounds. The forbearance was befitting the undisputed superiority which the British arms had assumed. We thought our generosity needed not to be circumscribed by strict prudence. Though the commandant had been guilty of overt acts of hostility to us by his intercourse with Bajee Rao, still as the Ex-Peishwa was at the time in the field, we had the excuse of considering this conduct as only a vacillation during an undecided contest; and we resolved to spare Scindia, the sovereign to whom Asseerghur belonged, and who was on a footing of amity with us, the pain of seeing it captured.

When Bajee Rao had thrown himself on our mercy, and all warfare was at an end, the invitation and protection extended to our fugitive enemy, Appa Saheb, was unequivocally criminal.—It was a direct indication of resolution to support any effort for the revival of convulsions in Central India. We had no longer an option. We applied to Scindiah to change the commandant and garrison. His Highness's order for the purpose was contemned: and the place, with its defenders, stood in the light of asserted independence, and of hostility wilfully exercised against us.

The ready subjugation of a fortress, which the childish fancy of the country had pronounced impregnable, and the total absence of any ferment in Central India during an enterprise which the speculation of the natives deemed likely to plunge us into embarrassment, served only to prove more clearly on how firm a basis the new system of our supremacy was founded. We have fitly availed ourselves of that evidence, as you have remarked.

You have observed my exertions to diffuse instruction through the extensive region with which we had become thus suddenly intimate. I cannot take credit for more than the having followed the impulse communicated by every British voice around me. Yes! we all similarly confessed the sacred obligation towards a bounteous Providence, of striving to impart to the immense population under our protection that improvement of intellect which we felt to be our own most valuable and dignified possession.

One topic remains.—My removal of restrictions from the press, has been mentioned in laudatory language. I might easily have adopted that procedure without any length of cautious consideration, **FROM MY HABIT OF REGARDING THE FREEDOM OF PUBLICATION AS A NATURAL RIGHT OF MY FELLOW SUBJECTS**, to be narrowed only by special and urgent cause assigned. The seeing **NO DIRECT NECESSITY FOR THOSE INVIDIOUS SHACKLES** might have sufficed to make me break them. I know myself, however, to have been guided in the step by a positive and well-weighed policy. If our motives of action are worthy, it must be wise to render them intelligible throughout an empire, our hold on which is opinion.

**FURTHER, IT IS SALUTARY FOR SUPREME AUTHORITY, EVEN WHEN ITS INTENTIONS ARE MOST PURE, TO LOOK TO THE CONTROL OF PUBLIC SCRUTINY.** While conscious of rectitude, that authority can lose nothing of its strength by its exposure to general comment. On the contrary, it acquires incalculable addition of force.

**THAT GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS NOTHING TO DISGUISE, WIELDS THE MOST POWERFUL INSTRUMENT THAT CAN APPERTAIN TO SOVEREIGN RULE. IT CARRIES WITH IT THE UNITED RELIANCE AND EFFORT OF THE WHOLE MASS OF THE GOVERNED: AND LET THE TRIUMPH OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY, IN ITS Awful Contest with Tyrant-ridden France, SPEAK THE VALUE OF A SPIRIT TO BE FOUND ONLY IN MEN ACCUSTOMED TO INDULGE AND EXPRESS THEIR HONEST SENTIMENTS.**

Say for me, Gentlemen, to those who have deputed you that I accept with unfeigned warmth and cordiality, the proof of good will with which they have honored me; and I entreat you to believe that I am justly sensible to the manner in which you have fulfilled your delegation."

### Fall of Talnair.

The capture of Talnair, having caused a considerable sensation in England, we publish the following narrative, as handed to us by one who was present, but without vouching for its accuracy in every minute particular, as a considerable difference of opinion exists, as to some circumstances that actually occurred; its general correctness may however be relied upon:

The result of the glorious victory of the 21st of December, 1817, at Mahidpoor, was the immediate conclusion of a Treaty of Peace with young Holkar, signed at Mundussoor. By this Treaty, certain districts and Forts to the southward of the Nurbuddah, were ceded to the Honorable Company; and the necessary instructions were sent by Holkar's Ministers to the different Governors and Killeddars to deliver them over to the British authorities.

On the return of the Madras Army to the southward, accompanied by Commissioners from Holkar's Court, to see the articles of the Treaty carried into execution; possession was taken of the strong Fort of Sindwarrah, which was delivered over on a summons to that effect, being one of the places ceded by the Treaty. Next on the route lay the Fortress of Talnair,

commanding the passage of the Taptee river. The approach of the British Army was notified to the Killeddar, and the article of the Treaty guaranteeing its surrender to the British Government.

Early on the morning of the 27th of February, some sick officers who had preceded the line, were fired upon by the Fort, on their approach. The head of the column of march reached the vicinity of Talnair about 8 A. M. when the Cavalry were halted, the grand wing so intersected with ravines as to prevent their acting, and the Horse Artillery and Infantry picquets were ordered in advance.

The Killeddar was again summoned, and the penalty made known to him, if he disregarded the Treaty. Holkar's Commissioners denouncing him as a rebel, if he persisted in acting in defiance of their masters instructions. All that was urged was of no avail. The Killeddar still continued to fire upon the British Troops.

The Fort was then reconnoitred; and some light field pieces, there being no heavy artillery with the Army, were brought into action, and the picquets reinforced. The defences of the place were found to be very formidable, the walls excessively high, and the gateways intricate and defended by numerous traverses.

The practice though conducted with admirable precision, made little impression on the works from the smallness of the calibre of the guns. It appeared impossible to carry the Fort without heavy artillery, and an express was sent off to General Doveton's camp, distant five marches, for the battering train.

About noon, an Officer of Artillery offered to go in with a 6-pounder, and endeavour to blow open the gates, but this at the moment was deemed too hazardous. Hostilities were kept up the whole day, when towards evening it was resolved to assault the place, and for this purpose the European Flank Companies were sent from camp, formed into column of attack preceded by a 6-pounder.

Many attempts had been made during the day to enter into a parley with the garrison, but they were invariably repelled, every person who advanced being fired upon. The cry of *Cow! Cow!* now and then issued from the Fort, but this was merely to decoy our Troops to expose themselves to a heavy fire.

As the column of attack issued from the ravine preceded by a gun, and after our Troops had overcome the obstacle of the first gateway, and had taken possession of the adjoining traverses, the Killeddar with a few attendants appeared and gave himself up a prisoner *unconditionally*.

On approaching the inner and last gate it was found locked, and the garrison under arms, were perceptible behind it. After some delay the wicket was opened, when some distinguished Officers and two or three Grenadiers entered; more were hurrying in, when in an instant, those who had made good their entrance were overthrown, and almost every one killed or wounded.

The British Troops kept pouring in, highly irritated at the massacre that had commenced; after a stout resistance the garrison was overwhelmed and put to the sword, and the Killeddar immediately hanged as a rebel.

The Governors of the other ceded Fortresses, and indeed all the Killeddars of the strong places in the province belonging to the Peishwah, hearing the fall of Talnair, immediately tendered their submission. Chundore and Galnah were instantly garrisoned by British sepoys, and had the English force been numerous enough, the whole of Kandeish might have then been occupied without further resistance.

### Earthquake in Arabia.

By a gentleman who is just arrived here from the Red Sea, we have learnt that on the morning of the 5th June, about 4 o'clock, a severe shock of an Earthquake was felt at Mokha, which lasted for upwards of three minutes, and was followed after a short interval by another shock of less violence.

The British subjects who were present at this Arabian Port at the time, had been celebrating the birth day of their Sovereign, on the preceding evening; and they were not quite certain at first whether the giddiness and rocking motion experienced were the effects of the copious libations of their loyal hours or not.

The testimonies of the Inhabitants however, whose sobriety led them to see objects in their true light, confirmed the fact of the Earthquake having been both general and violent, shaking many of the strongest edifices of the city, and creating universal alarm.

From the same authority we learn that the Turkish or Egyptian Government, under Mohammed Ali Pasha, was likely soon to spread itself all over the Red Sea, from Suez even to the straits of Bab-el-Mandeb. The trading towns of Gonfudda, Loheia, and Hodejda, are already in their possession; and as the two latter ports are much nearer the Coffee-mountains of Arabia, and the head mart of the interior, Beit-el-Fakih, the Turks may cut off the supplies of Coffee from Mokha, and oblige all vessels in future to purchase it from them in their own harbours—or shortly take Mokha itself into their possession, which will be an advantageous change: from the Government of a lawless and ignorant Arab to that of a man who is a friend to commerce, an observer of treaties, a dispenser of justice, and who stands alone in the Turkish annals as an independent Prince, esteeming the knowledge and cultivating the friendly intercourse of Europeans.

The Joassamee Pirates, it appeared, still hovered about the entrance of the Straits, notwithstanding that His Majesty's ship Bacchus, Captain Parkin, and the Honorable Company's cruiser Aurora, Captain Maillard, two very smart and active Officers were on that station. These Pirates had, it seems, destroyed the African settlement of the Samaulies at Berbera, on the coast of Adel, had visited also Aden, Maculla, and Shahar, in their way along the coast of Hadramaut, and held free possession of the sea than it is either favorable to the British commerce or honorable to the British government to admit these lawless plunderers and murderers to enjoy.

We hear that an Expedition is decidedly to be sent from Bombay after the rains, to root out their nests; but this is a tale that has now been told for the last four years, and repeated at every change of the monsoon, so that it has worn itself threadbare, and lost all credit.

The succession of Mr. Elphinstone to the Government of Bombay, may afford a hope of its being carried into execution; and whatever is undertaken by the wisdom of his councils will be vigorously supported by his known energy in executing them.

### Capture of Padang.

The brig Tagus, Captain Macdonald, which arrived at Madras on the 10th of July, brings account of the Dutch having taken possession of Padang, on the 23rd of May, and laid on double duties on all exports and imports!

We hope to be able to collect further particulars regarding this important event, for so it may be termed, as it regards our commerce in that quarter.

### Library at Mhow.

After the splendid and exalted sentiments of our illustrious Governor General, on the benefits of spreading information through the region over which he rules, in every possible channel,—it is gratifying to be able to follow it up with an account of a public spirited effort of General Sir John Malcolm to establish an Institution for the facilitating and rendering accessible to Europeans in the interior of India, that knowledge from which they are so frequently cut off, when distant from the Presidency, by a want of books.

The act is altogether so characteristic of the indefatigable and enlightened mind of the worthy General, who already stands as admired for his contributions to the Literature of British India, as famed for distinction in her military annals, that we shall give the details of it in the words of the Letter which reached us late last evening, dated from Mhow, July 7, 1819:—

"A proposition to build a Library and Reading Room was brought forward by Brigadier General Malcolm at a Meeting of the Officers, at his House. Our Commandant fully explained the objects he had in view;—and after mentioning the causes which he conceived had often made such Institutions fail: which were, generally speaking, doing too little or too much, either excluding what could alone give permanent interest to such an Institution, or trying to do more than the Society from its members and fluctuating nature could support,—he gave his reasons for believing in the success of the plan he brought forward.

All his propositions were voted without one dissentient voice, and a sum amounting to nearly 3,000 rupees was subscribed by the Officers present. The General, besides his own subscription, made a donation of Arrowsmith's Map, and about fifty volumes of Standard Works on India, including the Histories of Dow, Orme, Scot, and Wilkes, a complete set of the Asiatic Researches, and the Works of Sir William Jones.

The following is a transcript of the first Proceedings in this laudable undertaking:—

Proposition for establishing a Library and Reading Room at the Cantonment of Mhow.

It is suggested to establish by subscription a Reading Room and Library at the Cantonment of Mhow.

It is only necessary in the first instance to state generally the objects, plan, and probable expence.

Besides those objects that must be common to all Stations, of furnishing the Society with the means of entertainment and improvement, there are some which are peculiar to the situation of this Cantonment. From being so far inland, individuals cannot so easily supply themselves with Books, as at most other Military Stations; and placed in a country hitherto little visited or explored by Europeans and abounding with subjects of literary research, the possession of those aids which an Institution like the one proposed can alone give, may be expected to stimulate members to the attainment of knowledge, and prosecution of enquiries, honorable to themselves and useful to the Public. The plan should be on a moderate scale, but at the same time formed on principles calculated to promote its permanence, and gradual improvements.

It is proposed to build one large Room for a Library and Reading Room, the expence of which is not expected to be great. This must be defrayed by the first Subscribers, in whom the property will be vested, and it will be an object to secure it against its ever being used for other purposes than those for which it built.

A Committee to be appointed to receive the subscription, and to prepare a plan of the building, and an estimate of the future monthly subscription that will be necessary to form and

support the Library. This plan and estimate will, when prepared, be laid before the Subscribers for their information and approbation.

It is not easy to estimate the exact amount of the Subscription that will be required, but that will be small, as the Library must in the first instance be limited to a few established Works on India, some books of reference, Public Regulations, General Orders, and Elementary Works published by the College of Fort William; besides the best periodical Journals and Magazines.

The Room will be built in a form so substantial as seldom to require repair; and as it is exclusively to be used as a Reading Room, the establishment of a Writer, a Bookbinder, and two under servants, is likely to be sufficient.

As the Committee must, to regulate their proceedings, have some knowledge of the funds on which they can calculate for the building, &c. it is proposed that the property should be divided into shares (the amount of one share 25 Rupees) and that persons desiring to participate in this Institution subscribe for one or more shares as they like, and they will have a proportionate share in the property.

As it is necessary that a Committee should be immediately formed to give this plan more shape, it is proposed the following Officers should undertake this duty.

Brigadier General Malcolm,  
Lieutenant Colonel Scott,  
Lieutenant Colonel Corsellis,  
Lieutenant Colonel Wilson,  
Lieutenant Colonel Fallon,  
Captain Stewart,

Captain Dangerfield,  
Doctor Wilson,  
Captain D'Aubigny,  
Captain Alves,  
Lieutenant J. Iredell,  
Lieutenant Terrington.

(Secretary.)

Any five or three of this number that may be selected by the Committee, to constitute a Quorum.

All these Resolutions were passed with perfect unanimity. Our Committee proceed to business to-morrow; and if there is any thing interesting in our future progress I will inform you, as I know you who are aware of the nature of our society and occupations of these remote stations, will rejoice in such an Institution, and pray fervently that the good work may prosper."

We do indeed pray most fervently that it may prosper, not only for its own sake, but for the sake of the example that it will hold out to all the military stations of any consequence in India; and if we have witnessed, since the rule of our dominion in India, tyranny, oppression, and misery, gradually giving way to the blessings of security and abundance, with the natives of the country; so we may hope to see learning, refinement, and pleasure, take the place of ignorance, indolence, and unhappiness, among that class of our countrymen to whom inactivity in remote stations was the worst of banishments, from the want of agreeable sources of enjoyment, and of taste to relish them; but who may now, if the public-spirited example of Sir John Malcolm at Mhow be followed up, find as ready access in the interior as at the Presidencies to all that renders solitude delightful to the minds of rational and thinking beings.

### Marine Registry Office.

The fact of the Petition of the Owners and Commanders of ships to the Secretary of this Institution having lain for eight or nine months unanswered, has not been contradicted;—so that it is fair to infer that the representations set forth in it of the injustice of keeping the wages of the seamen still fixed at the highest standard while that of the commanders and officers were reduced, was founded in fact; or an explanation would have no doubt been immediately given of the misconception

under which the Petitioners laboured. A writer in the Hurkaru has pretended to show, that the fixed standard of wages is not binding, and that commanders may make any agreement for seamen at a lower rate of wages than that specified, provided this agreement be mutually made and done in the presence of the Registrar. If this be the sense or drift of his meaning, the fixing any rate at all was a useless obligation; since it could be easily evaded; and the Petition of the commanders and owners to be relieved from this evil of fixed high wages for their crew, was an act of folly, to say no worse of it, if they could have so easily relieved themselves.

We conceive, however, that while the Petition itself proves clearly that the owners and commanders of vessels deemed the wages to be so fixed by law as that they could not engage men at a lower rate without incurring a heavy penalty, so the silence of the Registrar, (who might easily have redressed their grievances by shewing them that they had the power of engaging men at any rate they pleased in their own hands, if it were so) is strong presumptive evidence of his admitting their complaints to have been founded on a right conception of the regulation.

If any thing could strengthen this double reason for our believing this to be the general sense entertained of the case, it would be the backwardness of the Editor of the Paper in which this Letter appears, to strengthen the arguments of his Correspondent by a few sweeping assertions and harsh terms of his own. He thinks we have "foolishly entered into a strife of which our information amounted to nothing." Yet the only information which we pretended to possess on the subject,—namely, the presentation of a Petition signed by 21 respectable men, lying nine months in the Office unanswered,—does amount to a great deal. It proves all that has been asserted by us of the inadequacy of the Institution to effect the ends for which it was established; and had it not been, as we so confidently asserted, founded on unanswerable fact, we should have seen it triumphantly denied, by the writer who boastingly acknowledges his having been intimately acquainted with the subject through every stage; but who prudently leaves the matter to be discussed by those who are more directly interested in it than himself!

We may not conceive rightly of the duties of a public writer: but our opinion is this—that he should be of all others the person most interested in the defence of injured innocence; and the first to prove, (whenever he made an assertion that one of the parties had foolishly entered into a strife about which he knew nothing) the facts on which the innocence or the purity of the person or the institution complained of were grounded.

In the present instance we are enabled to state, in proof of the Petition having being drawn up and presented, this remarkable fact.—That IT WAS COMPOSED AND WRITTEN BY THE EDITOR OF THE HURKARU HIMSELF, some nine months ago; and unless he was in the habit of lending himself to others to write on either side of a question as interest dictated, we must believe that the sentiments expressed in that Petition were such as he cordially acquiesced in; and that he then at least, fully admitted the truth of this assertion,—that in consequence of the pressure of accumulated charges, and, above all, the evil of high fixed wages, which it was the principal aim of the Petition to point out as a grievance "the hard-earned capital of the ship owner and commander was gradually wasting away;" and that the removal of these evils were necessary "in order to save himself from utter ruin, and the community in general from participating in his loss!"

Can such a writer then perform his duty when he permits the subject to be subsequently renewed without his giving at least a voice on the question; but on the contrary declares in the same breath that though the writer who has undertaken the exposure of the abuses complained of is ignorant of the

subject, while he himself is intimately acquainted with it through every stage, yet that he should leave it to be discussed by others who were more directly interested in its issue?

Whether such a shrinking from the contest be attributable to a change of opinion, or a fear of giving personal offence;—we can only say that in the first instance it is insincerity and indifference to truth, and in the second a cowardly and unmanly retreat from that which is the first and most imperious duty of every public writer: namely, the pursuit of *public good*, at the hazard of every *private consideration* which the task may involve.

This is at least the standard, by which we desire to regulate our own labours; and we are satisfied that it is the only one that will triumphantly abide the test of reason, of time, and of liberal investigation.

We proceed therefore to furnish, in addition to the particulars laid before our readers on Saturday, regarding the erroneous principles on which the Office of Marine Registry is formed, some plain yet striking facts, to show how these erroneous principles necessarily involve, in their application to practice, an inevitable train of ruinous consequences.

We have had enough on the impolicy of fixing immovably the wages of crews. The circumstances under which these are procured, and the liability to loss and disappointment, without a claim for adequate redress, forms another remarkably defective feature of the regulations of this Institution.

The Office is established by authority, and a Superintendent or Registrar is placed at the head of it on a salary of one thousand rupees per month. The expense of the whole establishment for the first year amounted to upwards of 72,000 rupees, which was chiefly borne by the owners of ships, though nominally paid in the tax of one per cent per annum on all premiums of Insurance received by the Insurance Offices in Calcutta.

The chief duty of the Registrar is to provide the crews. A commander wishing to procure men, must deposit in the Office, the whole amount of their wages, as fixed by the regulations, which establish both the rate and the period to be paid in advance; and this commander must be satisfied with conforming exactly to the table, in taking just as many able seamen, ordinary seamen, and landsmen, as the regulations fix, and neither less nor more. If he is going an arduous voyage and expects tempestuous weather, however great the proportion of able seamen he may require, he cannot have one beyond the number prescribed; and to render the evil still more oppressive, the Registrar, who is not possessed of the professional knowledge to decide,—and the syrangs of his office, who will, like all other natives, mould that knowledge to their own interest whenever it can be promoted thereby,—are to determine the rank and value of each individual, and place him in that class to which in the plenitude of their wisdom they may determine that he belongs; while the commander, who is in every respect so well qualified to judge, is without an adequate remedy for the impositions to which he is thus liable.

Let us pursue it a step farther. A commander, having paid the amount of the impress money into the Office, suffers his ship to drop down the river with few hands, under the confidence that the crew will be made efficient in fifteen days, the period limited by the ordinance. He waits in anxiety at Saugor, all ready for weighing his anchor, until the fifteen days limited by the law for the supply of his crew are expired, when he is deficient probably of the most essential hands; and after being detained in the prosecution of his voyage, to the destruction of all his hopes of profit therefrom, he is perhaps obliged to return himself to town, and to procure hands to navigate his ship in the best way he can. If he relies on the Office for his supply, his prospects are ruined by the disappointment, if he attempts to obtain them through his own exertions or any other

channel, we have seen that he is subjected to a penalty which would be equally ruinous.

The reader will naturally exclaim,—“But for such an evil there is surely some compensation fixed by the law, as obligations can be of little worth if they are not mutual, and this is too enlightened an age for laws to be made attaching all the penalties to a failure on one side only?”

It is impossible to deny that there is a penalty attached to such a breach of engagement; but whether this be adequate to the evil of a total ruin of the ship’s voyage which may be occasioned by it, the reader may judge for himself, when he has read the provision in its official form:—

“VI.—And be it further ordained by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after the due Registry and publication of this Rule, Ordinance, and Regulation, as aforesaid, if the said Registrar after such Notice and payment of Impress Money as aforesaid shall refuse or neglect within the time limited for procuring and shipping Seafaring Men, to procure and ship the same according to the notice which he shall have received, he shall repay to the person from whom he hath received such Notice and payment, or his Agents, the whole amount of such Impress Money or Wages which he shall have received, together with Interest thereon at and after the rate of twelve per Cent. per annum, and if the number of Men provided and shipped shall have been short of the number required by the Notice and paid for, then he shall refund a part of the Impress Money and Wages in proportion to such deficiency, together with the like interest thereon as last aforesaid.”

Let us illustrate the total inadequacy of such a penalty to compensate for the failure which it is intended to provide against, by the relation of a recent and highly illustrative case.

The ship Udy, of this port, commanded by Captain Pelly, was bound on a voyage to Muscat in the month of February last. The object of the voyage was to supply that port with a cargo of rice, an article that fluctuates extremely in its value in that quarter, as the presence of a single ship above the ordinary number overstocks the market, and the absence or delay of one in the same way depresses it.

Besides this strong motive for punctuality in the proposed period of arrival, the advanced state of the season rendered it necessary to use the utmost dispatch in order to save the N. E. monsoon, which by any delay would be at an end in the Arabian sea, and materially protract the voyage.

The whole amount of the impress money, i. e. the wages of the whole crew in advance, as fixed by the regulations of the Office, was paid into the Registrar’s hands. The commander, in the faith of the Registrar’s fulfilling this engagement, completed his lading and dropped down to Saugor roads for sea. The fifteen days granted by the regulation for this purpose expired, however, without the supply being completed, and the consequence was that Captain Pelly was obliged to look elsewhere to complete his crew.

He addressed himself to his friend Captain Pringle, the commander of a ship then in the port, stating the evil; and this gentleman, knowing the importance of the matter, did procure a serang, a tindal, and a bandarry, three of the most valuable and effective men of the crew, in order to send down, if his appeal to the office should have been in vain. On his waiting upon the Registrar, however, and representing to him the impolicy and hardship of the case, the men for whom the impress or advance had then been paid nearly a month, and who were all ready to go down, but of course indulged themselves with the enjoyments of the shore as long as the relaxed vigilance of the office allowed them to remain in town, were at length sent to the ship. They consisted of a serang, a first tindal, a bandarry and two able and one ordinary seaman, all such efficient men, as that he could not safely sail without them; no more being

taken, even when the complement is full, than are absolutely necessary to fulfil the duties of the voyage.

The Udry, after about a month's detention, occasioned by the tardy supply of her crew, sailed on the voyage.

On reaching the Malabar Coast, the N. E. monsoon was done, and she encountered there a severe gale at the change of the season, which, if she had been supplied with her crew in the regulated time, she would undoubtedly have avoided. In this gale, she damaged some part of her cargo, and instead of getting speedily along the Malabar coast with the fine weather of the proper season, she was obliged to beat across the Arabian Sea against the strong gales and heavy weather of the S. W. monsoon, in consequence of which she did not arrive at Muscat until two months after the proposed period, with a loss of time, and all the consequent evils of increased wages, interest of capital, &c. &c.—besides serious injury to the vessel by the gales of a late season thus encountered by the delay, the total loss of all that portion of the cargo which was damaged, and a depression of price in that which was brought uninjured, but too late into the market for an advantageous sale.

For these evils, where is the redress? In the present instance, none. If the deficiency of the crew, which caused the detention at Saugor and all the following train of evils, had not been made up by the Registrar, we have seen that the only penalty to be inflicted on him would be to oblige him to repay as much money as he had received for such deficient men, with interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, and he would then be exonerated from all further responsibility. But the Commander, naturally despising such a subterfuge under the name of a compensation, as this appears when put in competition with the importance of getting to sea, accepted the men though they had come so late; and proceeded on his voyage. As however all the ruinous consequences described, arose indubitably from the delay of the ship for want of hands, he is in this instance subjected to a positive loss, for which the whole amount of the impress money, and 12 per cent. per *diem*, instead of per *annum*, on that amount, would not compensate him.

We shall say nothing of the temptation, held out by this extraordinary defect in the regulations, to bribery, collusion, impartiality, and a train of important crimes. No man, ourselves less than any, would suggest the slightest suspicion against the present Registrar. Our concern is not with men, but with measures,—not with persons, but with principles,—not with private individuals, but with a public institution. We have no hesitation then in saying, that if the first arrival at a new or promising market is, as it always must be, an object worth purchasing at a large price, the Registrar has it in his power to sell this privilege to any one who may bid the highest for it, without the possibility of detection; as, if he furnishes a crew expeditiously to one ship or more to enable them to get the start of others, and declines supplying their rivals, though the impress money has been in each instance paid in at the Office on the same day, the only compensation that he is bound to make is to return the money paid him, with the same rate of interest as it would produce in the hands of any banker or agent for the time being; so that he might, by partial conduct, for which by the laws he seems accountable to no one, put a fortune into the hands of one ship owner and share the profits with him, and ruin another who has embarked his all upon the stake of the speculation, without the risk of forfeiting by such a fraud the value of a single rupee!

We again disavow any sentiments of disrespect personally to any individual concerned. We know that the gentlemen with whom the formation of this Establishment originated, were the most worthy, the most public spirited, the most honorable of the land. We know that the power which has stamped it with authority, is that which we all regard with reverence, not merely because it is the highest power in the country, but be-

cause it is a power wielded with justice, and tempered with benevolence and mercy, a power which men venerate and bow to because they love, rather than tremble at because they fear. We know too, that the present head of this Institution is a man standing high in general estimation as an upright and honorable member of society. But if it be dangerous to trust men with power, where the mere pleasure of exercising it is of itself a strong temptation, how much more is that danger increased when the temptation is strengthened by such allurements as we have mentioned, particularly when they can be yielded to with impunity, and the offender, under the shadow of a penalty which has no meaning attached to it, can defy his accusers, and triumphantly exclaim, "Whatever your loss or suffering may have been, I have either discharged my duty, or paid the forfeiture;—I am beyond the reach even of the tongue of reproach, for I have, in either case, fulfilled the law."

We trust, however, that a very speedy inquiry will be made into the nature of the Institution: that if its benefits be greater than its evils, it may be ably defended, or if the latter predominate, it may either be immediately reformed or totally abolished.

Since writing the above, we have received the following Letter which forms a valuable addendum.

*To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.*

SIR,

You are attacked, I find, in the Hurkaru, to give the names of those friends who furnished you with the late Letter addressed to the Secretary of the Marine Register Office, which you have stated had been lying eight or nine months unanswered; but if you had said fifteen months it would have been nearer the truth.

I suppose it must be the Registrar himself who calls for the names of those friends who gave it you. You may tell him that few of the many respectable persons whose names that paper bears would be ashamed to insert singly in such a cause. His own knowledge of them, would soon point out that some of them have long ago paid the debt of nature, instead of paying longer the Lascar Office, and that few of them are here at present, except W. Black, G. Brown, C. Balston, and your humble servant.

If the Registrar, to whom it was presented in the most respectful manner, and with the strongest recommendations, had been so prompt to lay it before the Committee as you have been to place it before the eye of the Public, the evils of which we complained would ere now, no doubt, have been remedied.

You are at liberty to add that you received the Petition from me, and to state that it is an attested Copy, which came from the Office, directed to Captains Black and Allan.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. ALLAN.

P. S.—I may desire my compliments to Mr. F. B. of the Hurkaru, who asks you so readily for the names of your Friends or Informants, and should like to see his own also at full length, if he will condescend to give to others the favor that he solicits for himself.

#### TO OUR READERS.

*The interruption occasioned to our series of Parliamentary Reports, by the pressure of local topics of interest, has been regretted by us as much as it can have been by our friends; but while we were called on to answer public claims on our pages for such local discussions, on the one hand—and restricted by the limited weight allowed for postage, from exceeding our ordinary number of sheets on the other—we could not well have avoided their suspension.*

*We hope to resume them however to-morrow, as the Questions of recent discussion are we believe fully set at rest, and will not be likely again to occasion material interruption to the usual order of our arrangement, in which we desire to give all the variety and fulness of information that our limits will admit.*

## Domestic Occurrences.

### MARRIAGES.

- July 14. At the Cathedral, by the Reverend Mr. Parson, Captain William Croker, of His Majesty's 17th Regiment, to Miss Eliza Stokes.  
 17. At Moorshedabad, Captain Fuller, of His Majesty's 59th Regiment, to Miss Finch.  
 18. At the Cathedral, by the Reverend Mr. Parson, Mr. Julian Lavandier, to Miss Charlotte Swift.  
 23. At the Cathedral, Mr. William MacLeod, to Miss Charlotte Hudson.

### DEATHS.

On the morning of the 7th of July, at Nussurabad, in Rajpootana, Lieutenant Robert Cauty, Quarter Master of the 2d Battalion 19th Regiment. This gentleman, in the prime and vigour of life, fell a victim to that epidemic which now so fatally ravages India, after a lingering trial of twelve days, in which his friends and relatives had flattered themselves with many symptoms of convalescence, and strong hopes that he would be spared to them. He possessed no small portion of taste and information; was active and intelligent, and in upright and honorable principles was excelled by no man. He has left a large family to deplore a loss, to them irreparable and singularly distressing.

On the night of the 13th July, at Muttra, Captain G. Barker, of the 12th Native Infantry—universally regretted.

*Curious Marriage.*—A case lately occurred at Melun respecting the second marriage of a woman, whose first husband was still living, which is not a little singular. This woman, whose first husband was, in the year 1816, sentenced to deportation for a political offence, appeared not long since before the Mayor of Melun, to contract a second marriage; but the Mayor refused to marry her while her first husband lived. She cited him before the Tribunal of Melun, and alleged the 227th article of the Civil Code, which declared that civil death was a dissolution of marriage. The Tribunal rejected her demand, on the ground that sufficient evidence had not been produced to prove the execution of the sentence of deportation; but in an appeal to the Court Royal, the woman proved that her husband had been conveyed to Mount Saint Michel for the purpose of undergoing punishment; and the Court, in consequence, annulled the first judgment, and commanded the Mayor to proceed to the celebration of the marriage.

*Singular Death.*—Found dead, in an obscure lodging, in George Yard, Whitechapel, Jane Jones, more commonly known by the name of Crazy Jane; well known for some years about Rag-fair, Rosemary-lane, Thames-street, and Whitechapel. She used to be decorated with artificial flowers round her head, with a large leek stuck in it, and half naked, without shoes or stockings. She had formerly been employed in supplying the men of war at Gosport with various articles, where she formed a connexion with one of the sailors, who was hanged on board the Glory, of 74 guns, at the time of the memorable mutiny at the Nore some years ago. This unhappy end of her companion, it is supposed, deprived her of reason.

## Shipping Intelligence.

### CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.

| July. Names of Vessels | Flags    | Commanders | From whence | Left    |
|------------------------|----------|------------|-------------|---------|
| 20 Guide               | *British | J. Higgins | Penang      | June 15 |

### CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.

| July. Names of Vessels | Flags   | Commanders  | Destination   |
|------------------------|---------|-------------|---------------|
| 25 Flora               | British | W. Gillett  | Cape          |
| 25 Mary                | British | A. Scott    | Mad. & London |
| 26 Thelmaques          | Dutch   | J. P. Kleyn | Antwerp       |

## Nautical Notices.

The ship Theodosia will drop down the river and sail for Gibraltar and Liverpool in a day or two—and the Lady Flora, for the Mauritius and Cape, in three or four days.

The Isabella, Captain Wallis, dropped down to Diamond Harbour yesterday, to complete her cargo for London.

## Nautical Law Case.

### ADMIRALTY COURT, DOCTORS' COMMONS.—MARCH 1.

#### Ship Hercules.

This was an application to the Court for an arrest of the proceeds of the cargo of the above ship, in the service of the South American Independents, which, it will be recollect, was seized by His Majesty's ship Brazen, for a breach of one or other of the navigation laws, but by the sentence of this Court restitution was decreed to the owner.

The ground of this application was, 'a cause of piracy having been a sine established against the Hercules, for the capture of the Spanish ship Consequenta, alleged to have been piratically taken by her upon the high seas; and the cargo of the Consequenta, then on board the Hercules, having been sold at Antigua, this application was to arrest the proceeds.'

Drs. Burnaby and Jesse Adams opposed the application for arrest, upon the ground that the Court had no jurisdiction for a period of 150 years over goods which were found upon the land, although admitted to have been piratically taken; these goods having been sold, the property was no longer within the jurisdiction of this Court. A series of authorities were cited in support of the objection. The Learned Counsel refusing to state for what party they appeared, further than praying restitution of the ship and cargo to William Brown the owner, as by the sentence of the Court in the former cause restitution had been decreed to him as owner.

Drs. Jenner and Lushington were heard in support of the application for arrest, contending, that the proceeds of the Hercules were now actually in possession of the Court, and by the Statute Edward IV. c. 7, "the King may seize the goods of pirates by sea or land, for if the owner is unknown, they belong to the King." The principle laid down in Cook's Reports is, "that goods taken sorfiontly and piratically upon the seas, though sold upon the land, shall not change property from the owner, and these transactions, though done upon land, shall be tried in the Admiralty Court." The Authorities of the Common Law had all held against the possession of pirates, unless the goods were sold in market overt. The property so possessed by pirates, was no more changed by the sale, than if a thief should steal goods upon the land, and sell them. Lord Hale had confirmed this doctrine. The word *piratici*, it was contended, was sufficient to found the jurisdiction of the Court.

The argument stands over for a further hearing.

## Price of Rice.

"Ne Sutor ultra crepidam."\*

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR, What a fortunate thing for the Editor of the Hurkaru, that he has a compositor to assist him when he blunders over what he knows nothing about; although I doubt much if any of them will be found *disposable* to assist him through his bad grammar!

Let not this writer torture Dr. Johnson and Lindley Murray, and offend the common sense of his readers by talking about *disposability*, nor attempt to point out in others what his daily productions teem with!

Your insertion of the above few words of advice to him will, no doubt, be also acknowledged with thanks; and as he appears so grateful for having his faults pointed out, I will not conceal from him what he intended to have inserted about the price of Rice: he intended to have informed his readers, that Rice was *saleable* at 42 *livres* per bag, in which case he would have been nearly right; but possibly he thought *livres* meant *dollars*, so that *ignorance* probably would have been the truest plea he could urge for the mistake, in the place of throwing the blame upon the poor compositor!

Your obedient servant,

Calcutta, July 26, 1819.

A SUBSCRIBER.

\* "Let not the Shoemaker go beyond his last."